

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NPS# 94000709

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Oaks

other names/site number DHR 154-1-5

2. Location

street & number 311 E. Main St. not for publication N/A
city or town Christiansburg vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24073

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Henry C. Miller
Signature of certifying official

5/4/94
Date

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the
National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC	Sub: single dwelling
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC	Sub: hotel
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONEroof WOOD: shinglewalls WOOD: shingle, weatherboardother BRICK

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ArchitecturePeriod of Significance 1893Significant Dates 1893

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/ACultural Affiliation N/AArchitect/Builder unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested.

☒ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.2 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	17	552840	4109570	2
3				4

☐ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rodney Wilson

organization Mary Washington College date March 1994

street & number 4970 N. Spring Dr. telephone 703-562-1758

city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24019

The Oaks

Montgomery County, Virginia

=====

Additional Documentation

=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====

Property Owner

=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Thomas and Margaret Ray

street & number 311 E. Main St. telephone 703-381-1500

city or town Christiansburg state VA zip code 24073

=====

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**The Oaks
Montgomery County, Virginia**

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Oaks is a two-story, frame, Queen Anne house, located at 311 East Main Street in the East Main Street Historic District of Christiansburg, Virginia. The oldest house in the neighborhood, it is the only structure left dating to the 19th century, and is currently a dwelling as well as a bed and breakfast inn. Originally a 4.6 acre lot, the property is now only 1.2 acres. Resting on a stone foundation, The Oaks is an asymmetrical, massed plan structure with a wrap-around porch, a polygonal tower, a polygonal turret, and a hipped roof with two cross gables and four brick chimneys. In addition to the house, there are two noncontributing buildings on the property: a one-story frame cottage, and a single story, frame workshed.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Constructed in 1893, The Oaks is a frame, two-story, asymmetrical-plan, Queen Anne structure. Oriented toward the west, the house has a full basement with a coursed limestone foundation. The sills, joists, and summer beams are all hand hewn. The basement has one exterior entrance at the south facade. The first story is clad with weatherboard while the second story is clad in plain shingles. At the southwest corner of the house, a polygonal turret rises from ground level to roofline, culminating in a conical roof. A polygonal tower, like the turret, adjoins the roofline at the south facade. The roof system of The Oaks is highly asymmetrical. While the house has a hipped roof over its greater portion, there is a one-story gable roof section covering the east facade. There is a gable-on-hip with a stickwork wheel design on the west or main gable end. Two cross gables bisect the roof system, one at the west with curvilinear stickwork, the other at the north. The house has four stretcher-bond brick chimneys. A central chimney rises between the tower and turret at the south facade, another chimney lies near the northeast corner of the house, an interior end chimney is positioned at the east facade, and a gable end chimney rises from the sunroom.

The house also has an outdoor sundeck and a front porch. Directly to the west of the cross gable at the north facade, there is a sundeck off of the second floor with an exterior staircase, whose spindle balustrade continues around the deck. The front porch consists of a ten-bay wrap-around porch supported by concrete piers. Extending from the north corner of the west, main facade to the center portion of the south facade, the porch culminates in a five-stepped staircase. A spindled balustrade follows the base of the porch, supporting turned posts and simple brackets with a circle motif. Latticework runs along the bottom of the porch, concealing the piers. A gabled portico with spindled supports bisects the porch at the west facade.

While the majority of the windows at The Oaks are double-hung sash, a large stained glass window, with circular designs and flowers, is located to the north of the main entry. There are two thirteen-light hopper windows in the cross gable at the west facade, and a vertical

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

The Oaks
Montgomery County, Virginia

row of three eleven-light examples located at the center of the south facade. There are five round-headed windows in the upper most section of the turret, and one example of a pivot window in the north facade.

With the exception of the French doors at the entrance, and one other door, all the doors are six-paneled doors. The structure has beaded baseboards throughout except in the attic and two other sections of the house. Most of the walls and ceilings in the house are plastered, and modillioned crown moldings appear in all the rooms except the kitchen and attic. Door surrounds are all fluted with paterae in the corner blocks, with the exception of the first floor, parlor entrance, which displays a plain lintel.

The main entrance, surrounded by a transom and twelve-light sidelights above paneling, open into a central passage, or foyer. South of the foyer is a parlor with a fireplace centered at its east wall. Displaying fluted pilasters supporting a plain moulded shelf, the ornamental tile surround, bordered by egg and dart moulding, frames a cast iron hearth. Back-to-back against this fireplace is the nearly identical fireplace in the study, elaborated with carved collonettes supporting a decoratively carved shelf with a sunburst, framing the tile surround and cast iron hearth.

The dining room, distinguished by a moulded chair rail, lies across a narrow secondary passage from the study. At the east end of the secondary passage is a four-paneled Dutch door leading to a kitchen area behind the dining room. The sunroom, east of the kitchen area, is decorated with matchstick walls and ceiling. On the north wall of the sunroom, a pair of French doors leads to a brick patio. The paneled fireplace surround and plain shelf in the sunroom was taken from a Roanoke farmhouse.

North of the foyer, a narrow cross passage leads to a bedroom, underneath a wooden arch. Rising above this bedroom, a staircase with an elaborate turned baluster and paneled spandrel leads to the second floor where a second, 6 panel, large stained glass window is located.

The second floor also has a central passage providing circulation. To the south, a cross passage leads to the sunroom which, until recently, was a bedroom. Directly to the north, there are three bedrooms. The bedrooms above the first floor parlor and study display grand slate fireplace surrounds. Placed back-to-back, these painted and carved surrounds have geometric designs on their rounded sides and their paneled facing.

A second boxed staircase, east of the study leads to the finished attic with plank flooring, as well as plaster walls and ceilings which follow the roofline. Fireplace surrounds on the third floor are plain and without mantel shelves. The third floor turret room is decorated, like the sunroom, with matchstick walls and ceiling.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

The Oaks
Montgomery County, Virginia

Outside, at the northeast corner of the house, a flagstone walk meets the walkway and leads to a one-story frame cottage with a brick foundation, weatherboard cladding, and shingled gable roof. The noncontributing cottage has a five-bay attached gazebo, with a spindle balustrade, located at its southwest corner. A small, frame and weatherboarded workshed, off the southeast corner of the house, resting on wooden piers set on a brick foundation is also noncontributing.

The Oaks now serves as a bed and breakfast inn. Two bathrooms on the second and third floors, as well as one on the first floor were added in the 1980s to accommodate guests. All other details, with the exception of the sunroom fireplace surround, are original.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 4

**The Oaks
Montgomery County, Virginia**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1893 for William Pierce, The Oaks is located at 311 East Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, within the East Main Street Historic District. With such defining features as the eclectic massing, tower, turret, and wrap-around porch, as well as its elaborate spindle and woodwork, this house is one of the last remaining examples of Queen Anne architecture in Christiansburg. Situated in the heart of the East Main Street Historic District, The Oaks serves as a reminder of life in the nineteenth century. The house is the last of its type in its neighborhood, and the best of its type to survive in Christiansburg.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

William H. Pierce, a member of the local Rotary Club and owner of large amounts of land in Christiansburg, had The Oaks constructed for himself and his wife in 1893. Educated at Washington and Lee University and VPI, he held the office of commandant at a military school in Washington, D.C., before returning to Christiansburg to found the Pierce Insurance Agency. He and his wife raised six of their seven children at The Oaks. Pierce resided here until his death on 6 May 1949.

During this time the estate acreage gradually decreased. In 1894, The Oaks sat on a 4.58 acre lot.¹ It was reduced to 3.128 acres by 1903, and again in 1920 to 2.68 acres.² Ten years later, Pierce had added .12 acres; however, the value of his lot depreciated from \$1,500 to \$1,400.³ In 1932, two acres remained and the value of the lot dropped to \$1,300, where it remained throughout the depression until it dropped, in 1941, to \$300.⁴ Upon Pierce's death, the acreage and value were equal to those in 1941.⁵ On 27 July 1948, he wrote his will, leaving the house to his wife, Julia, and naming his son, Edwin D. Pierce, the executor of his estate.

Upon his mother's death on 25 November 1968, Edwin Pierce inherited everything.⁶ Edwin relinquished all his rights to the house on 11 August 1950, giving the property to his brother William.⁷ A resident of Miami Beach, Florida, William retained control of the property until his death in 1976 when his wife, Margaret, received it.⁸

During their ownership of the house, the lot diminished to its present size of 1.2080 acres. On 9 November 1981, Margaret Pierce sold the property to Thomas D. and Mary S. Hardie, stipulating that the house not be turned into a restaurant or that the oak trees be felled unless professionally done.⁹ On 10 April 1985, Thomas and Mary Hardie divorced, and William B. Hopkins, their attorney, acted as the trustee for the property.¹⁰ On 7 January 1986, Mary and Thomas Hardie changed their settlement and she agreed to convey all of her property rights to Hopkins.¹¹ Thomas Hardie eventually decided to sell The Oaks, and Hopkins handled the transaction. On 25 September 1989, he conveyed a deed of trust unto the present owners, Thomas and Margaret Ray, who have established a bed and breakfast inn at the house.¹²

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

The Oaks
Montgomery County, Virginia

Endnotes

1. Land Tax Book, Montgomery County, Virginia, 1894, Christiansburg Magisterial District, W.L. Pierce, no page no.
2. Land Tax Book, Montgomery County, Virginia, 1903, Christiansburg Magisterial District, W.L. Pierce, p. 21, and Land Tax Book, Montgomery County, Virginia, 1920, Christiansburg Magisterial District, W.L. Pierce, p. 62.
3. Land Tax Book, Montgomery County, Virginia, 1930, Christiansburg Magisterial District, W.L. Pierce, p. 91.
4. Land Tax Book, Montgomery County, Virginia, 1932, Christiansburg Magisterial District, W.L. Pierce, p. 94, and Land Tax Book, Montgomery County, Virginia, 1941, Christiansburg Magisterial District, W.L. Pierce, p. 205.
5. Land Tax Book, Montgomery County, Virginia, 1979, Christiansburg Magisterial District, W.L. Pierce, p. 248.
6. Will Book 17, pp. 28-30.
7. Deed Book 167, pp. 402-404.
8. Will Book 27, pp. 327-337.
9. Deed Book 450, p. 176-180.
10. Deed Book 639, p. 733.
11. Deed Book 639, p. 733.
12. Deed Book 658, p 681-683.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 & 10 Page 6

**The Oaks
Montgomery County, Virginia**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Blueprints of the Oaks, 1982, located at the Oaks.

Current Index to Deed and Grantors, N-O-P-QR, January 1, 1934-December 31, 1966, Montgomery County

Deed Book 167, Montgomery County

Deed Book 450, Montgomery County

Deed Book 639, Montgomery County

Deed Book 658, Montgomery County

Deed Book 42, Montgomery County

General Index to Deeds and Deeds of Trust, Montgomery County, 1989-1991

Land Book 1991, N-S, Montgomery County

Land Tax Book, 1894, Christiansburg Magisterial District, W.L. Pierce.

Land Tax Book, 1903, Christiansburg Magisterial District, W.L. Pierce.

Land Tax Book, 1920, Christiansburg Magisterial District, W.L. Pierce.

Land Tax Book, 1930, Christiansburg Magisterial District, W.L. Pierce.

Land Tax Book, 1932, Christiansburg Magisterial District, W.L. Pierce.

Land Tax Book, 1941, Christiansburg Magisterial District, W.L. Pierce.

Land Tax Book, 1949, Christiansburg Magisterial District, W.L. Pierce.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

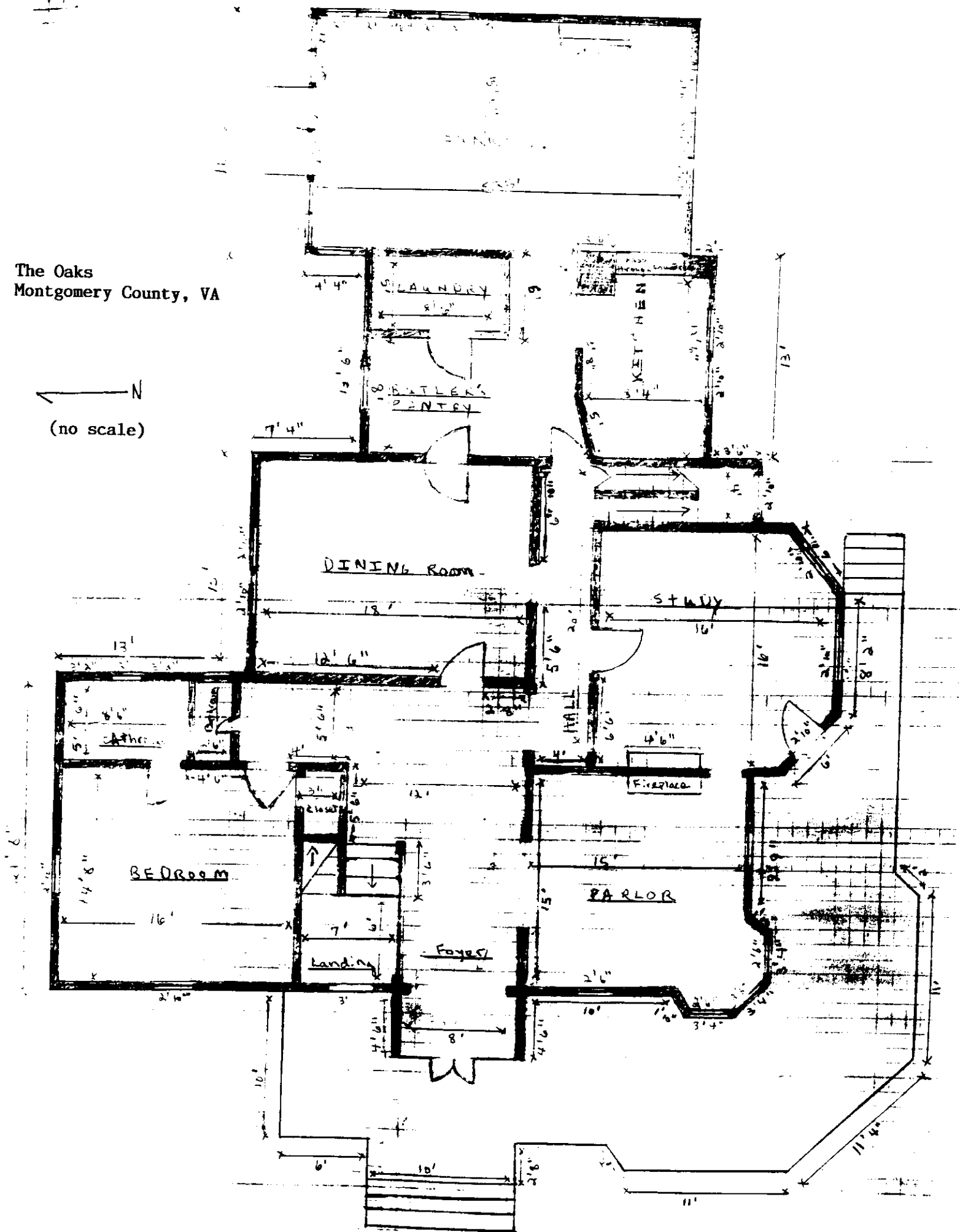
Located at the corner of Park and East Main Street, the site is lot 127-A on the current tax map for Christiansburg, Virginia.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the 1.2 acre portion of the original 4.6 acre parcel historically associated with the property. The excluded acreage has been sold and developed. The main house, as well as two non-contributing buildings associated with the property remain within the boundary.

The Oaks
Montgomery County, VA

N
(no scale)



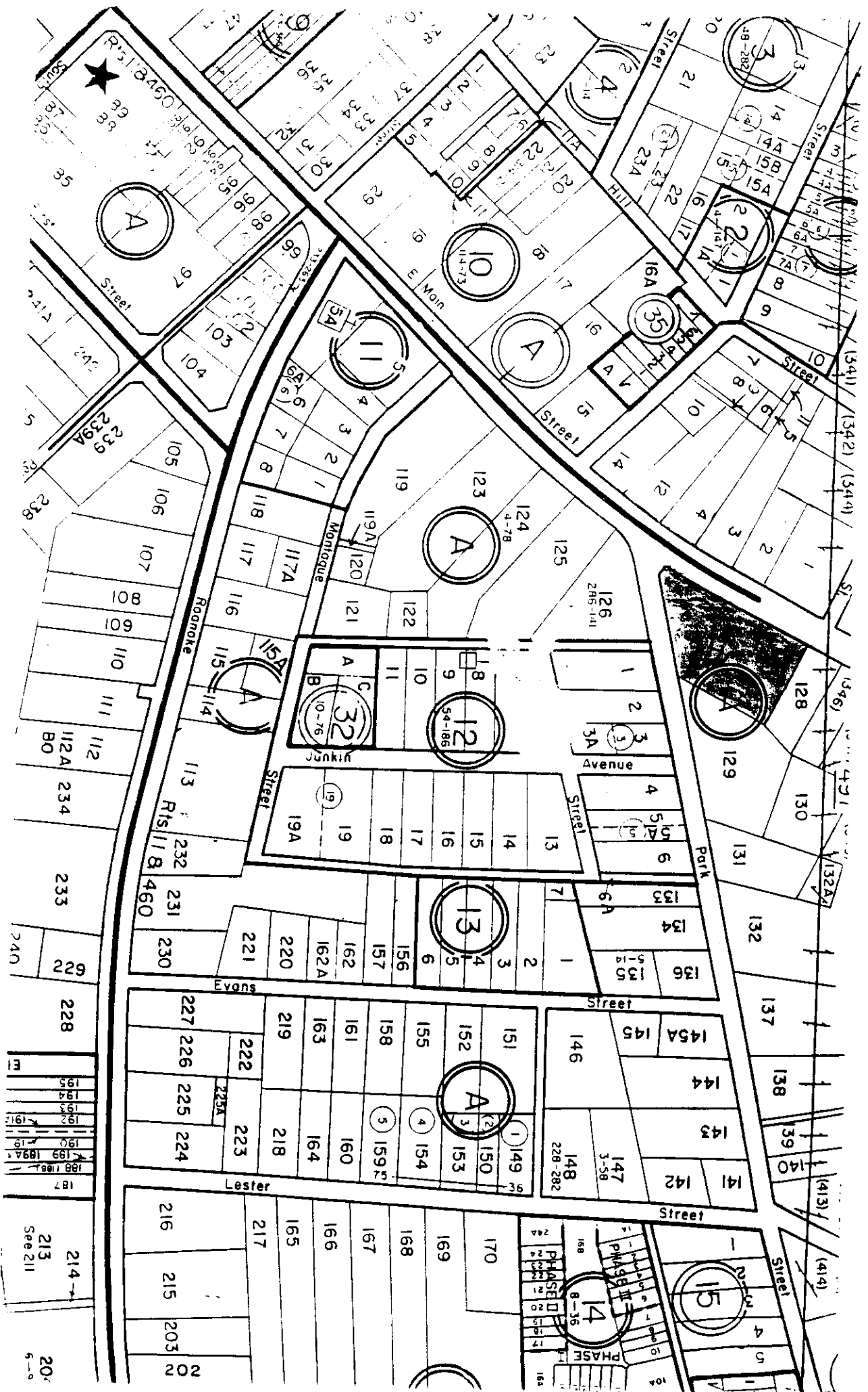
NOTES:
1 AREA WITHIN HEAVY LINES:
28,012 SQ FT.
12079 AC



PLAT
SHOWING PROPERTY
TO BE ACQUIRED BY
MARY S. HARDIE
LOCATED IN
TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG
SHAMSVILLE MAG. DISTRICT
MONTGOMERY CO, VIRGINIA
SCALE: 1"=50' 4 NOV, 1961

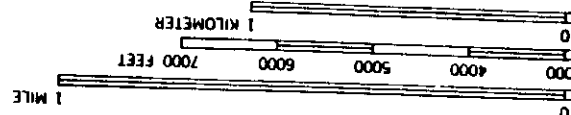
The Oaks
Montgomery County, VA
(no scale)

(no scale)



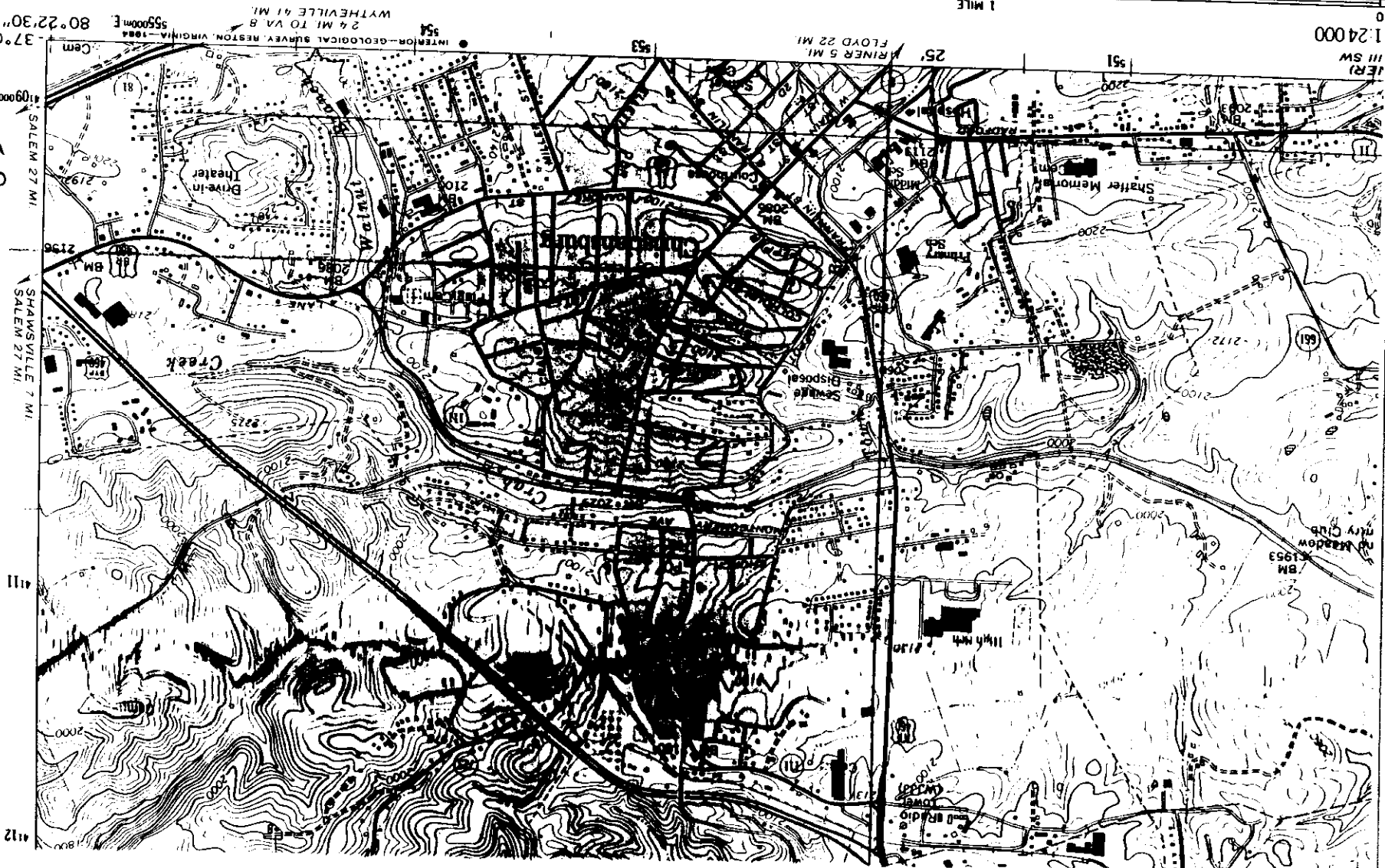
NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225,
 VIRGINIA 22092
 SOURCES, CHARLOTTEVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 INTERVAL 20 FEET



BLACKSBURG, VA.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Heavy-duty
 Medium-duty
 Light-duty
 Unimproved dirt
 Interstate Route
 U.S. Route
 State Route



1965
 PHOTO REVISSED 1983
 DMA 4958 III NW-SERIES V834

37080-B4-TF-024

Rodney Wilson
 The Oaks
 311 East Main
 Christiansburg, VA
 VOHR # 154-1
 NUTM Referral
 Zone 117
 Easting 552.8
 Northing 41095